



Caring For Kiwis

Choosing a Site:

Kiwi should be planted on a south facing sunny slope for best results. In order to get fruit, there needs to be both a male and a female vine. One male vine can pollinate up to five female vines. Soil can be any type but needs to be well drained. It is best to add compost to the Willamette Valley native soil to achieve success.

Planting:

Kiwis are generally planted in row and on a trellis. The vines should be planted at least 15-25 feet apart on a horizontal wire trellis. Kiwi should be planted in the early spring if possible. Set the plant in a hole large enough to spread the roots out without bending them. Loosen the roots in potted plants to face outwards. The depth should be the same depth as they were planted in the nursery pot you bought the plants in. Kiwis do not require a high level of fertility, but adding a slow-release fertilizer to the soil each spring would assist in the growth and health of the plant.

Pruning:

The vines will be in full production after the third year.

During the first year: Allow the vine to grow to the top of the wire trellis before they are allowed to branch. Select the two vigorous lateral branches (Cordons) to keep. Prune off remaining laterals. Prune the remaining lateral canes back to 36".

Second and Third Year: Select fruiting laterals spaced about 2' apart and allow the main cordons to grow. In the second summer, the canes emerging from the laterals will produce fruit at their bases. During the growing season it is wise to prune the canes back 6-10 buds beyond the last bloom. This will help prevent tangling of the vines and will cause the energy to be channeled to the producing fruit. Remove most new laterals arising from the Cordons, especially those with strong upright growth. Leave enough laterals to replace old fruiting canes. After each cane has fruited twice, remove it completely and replace it with selected new spurs.

Harvesting:

Kiwis are ready to pick when the fruit easily comes off the vine.

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